



## Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense: Legislative Affairs

### *Legislative Update*

#### **ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE**

#### **DOD SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2005, AS OF 0700**

##### **Command and Control**

- U.S. Northern Command Commander is Admiral Keating in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- Joint Task Force Katrina Commander is Lieutenant General Honore at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.
- Joint Task Force Louisiana National Guard Commander is Major General Landreneau, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Joint Task Force Mississippi National Guard Commander is Major General Cross at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

##### **Operational Highlights:**

- 58,917 Active Duty and National Guard Personnel are on the ground or aboard ships supporting relief operations.
  - 17,417 Active Duty personnel.
  - 41,500 National Guard personnel.
- Twenty-one U.S. Navy Ships are in or sailing to the Gulf region.
- Total aviation support includes Active Duty and National Guard aircraft.
  - 355 helicopters (175 Active Duty and 180 National Guard).
  - 93 airplanes (70 Active Duty and 23 National Guard).
- DoD has provided extensive search and rescue, evacuation, and medical support:
  - 1,771 sorties flown- 799 in the past 24 hours.
  - 75,000 people evacuated.
  - 13,000 people rescued.
  - 7,500 patients evacuated by ground and an additional 2,552 evacuated by air.
  - 5,512 patients treated.
- Joint Task Force Katrina (Forward) will relocate to USS IWO JIMA pier side New Orleans, to improve overall command and control of the operation.
- Corps of Engineers will close 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal levee breach and begin pumping operations on September 6; two controlled breaches will allow interior water to drain as well.
- The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, I and II Marine Expeditionary Force will conduct humanitarian search and rescue, evacuation and security missions.
- USS WHIDBEY ISLAND and USS GRAPPLE arrived in the Gulf:
  - USS WHIDBEY ISLAND will deliver six floating bridges to replace destroyed bridges in New Orleans.
  - USS GRAPPLE will support salvage and clearing operations with the U.S. Coast Guard.



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- A U.S. Army element arrived at Camp Shelby, Mississippi equipped with airborne and ground loud speakers to assist with evacuation operations.
- Secretary of Defense concurred with the Secretary of Transportation utilization of Maritime Ready Reserve Force ships- currently planning on utilization of 6 ships from the fleet.
- We are providing 1,500 mobile radios and technical support to be used by officials in Mississippi to enhance their communications. DoD communications support will also be provided to the New Orleans Police Department.
- The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology is providing a specialized DNA team to assist with identification of fatalities.
- Six installations are providing support as transportation staging areas for ice, water, and medical supplies.
  - Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas is the central collection point within DoD for supplies donated by foreign countries.
- Military Sealift Command contracted for one passenger ship to provide lodging for disaster victims and response personnel.
- We have delivered seven million of the 21 million MREs ordered by FEMA and 200 truckloads of ice and water.
- 745 beds are available in field hospitals established at New Orleans International Airport (25 beds), USS BATAAN (360 beds) and USS IWO JIMA (360 beds).
- Ten Department of Health and Human Services Federal Medical Shelters (250 beds each) are located at DoD installations: Elgin Air Force Base, Florida (2 shelters) Fort Polk, Louisiana (4 shelters), Meridian Naval Air Station, Mississippi (4 shelters).
- Air Force will provide a mobile hospital unit (85 beds) and air logistics support at Alexandria Airport, now a staging area for rescue operations.